

Dist.:

Orig. & cy - Mr. Bissell
Cy #3 - Ops subj. file
Cy #4 - Admin chrono
Cy #5 - Admin reading
Cy #6 - Ops chrono

[redacted]
Cy 4 of 6

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18 April 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: Trip Report

1. The undersigned arrived at Watertown 1300 8 April to observe the Detachment "A" USCM. On the afternoon of 8 April a meeting with [redacted] was held to discuss revision of the USCM scoring system. This system was revised generally as recommended in our 5 April meeting with [redacted] at Project Headquarters in Washington. (See Attachment 1) At this time [redacted] requested that I formally become a member of the USCM Evaluation Board.

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2. No attempt will be made here to give a breakdown of the missions as they were flown as this information will be covered in other reporting action. Only a brief summary of salient observations will be made now.

3. Generally, pre-mission communications and planning went well. Briefings and critiques were marginal early in the USCM. However, this was corrected as the USCM progressed, and in the final stages briefings and critiques went along in an orderly fashion. In all instances the weather information, due in four hours ahead of take-off, came in too late to be used in the briefing. The four-hour timing on pre-briefing weather information is acceptable; our problem here is one of communications.

4. The ability of Detachment "A" personnel to plan and brief missions and the ability of the pilots to fly missions as briefed was displayed throughout the USCM. The effort during the USCM was considerably more than normal and because of this, planning and maintenance personnel were working at a pace which could not be held over a long period of operation. There were indications that small revisions will be required in the way we handle and report our missions. It is anticipated that a consolidated list of observations and recommendations will be forthcoming from [redacted]. Reliability of equipment detracted from the USCM to a considerable degree. However, as the USCM progressed, reliability of photo equipment improved considerably. Engine performance appears to still present somewhat of a problem.

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5. The USCM, in addition to testing Detachment "A", did much to bring Detachment "A" together as an operating organization. It is recommended that we get into this type of operation with Detachment "B" at the earliest date.

Attachment (1)

MCM/aem

[redacted]
Colonel, USAF

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